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The admiral and his new-look CIA

Stansfield Turner after the first 20 months

by Stu Cohen

The ad in *Juris Doctor*, a respected journal for young lawyers, could have been placed by any government agency. It sought "people-oriented individuals with drive, enthusiasm and motivation for public service." The employer put a premium on foreign-language training and an understanding of international affairs.

There was one caveat. Potential applicants were advised: "Duties require living abroad and working in a foreign environment at times under hardship conditions." And it was clear that more than amoebic dysentery was at stake. The advertiser was the Central Intelligence Agency.

The public search for new officers represents a significant departure for an agency that has traditionally done its recruiting with considerably more discretion. But the ad does not indicate that the CIA is at a loss for good applicants; indeed, in the economic hard times of late, the agency has been able to pick and choose from among highly qualified and committed prospective employees, a spokesman told the *Phoenix*. And CIA press chief Herbert Hetu said at a recent luncheon in Boston: "In the last year we had 30,000 serious applications for 12,000 jobs."

No, the understated ad was simply an example of the new way of doing business at the "born-again" Central Intelligence Agency. Its new director, Admiral Stansfield Turner, has been in power for 20 months, and the changes he has wrought have been both dramatic and intensely controversial within the "intelligence community." If only the outlines of those changes are clearly visible to the public, it is nonetheless obvious that the CIA under Turner's direction is a very different agency from the one previous spymaster ran.

One such change was implicit before Turner's name was painted on the office

door. The new director was hired with a new title — not merely Director of the Central Intelligence Agency but Director of Central Intelligence, honcho of all of the spy agencies, including the FBI, the National Security Agency, the individual military services' intelligence outfits and the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research. For the first time in a generation, the US has a spymaster in the true sense of the term. Below the president, where intelligence matters are concerned, the buck stops at Stansfield Turner's desk.

The last individual to hold an analogous position was also the first to do so: Allen Dulles. In the period immediately after the passage by Congress of an "Intelligence Charter" in the early '50s, Dulles coordinated the work of all existing intelligence-gathering agencies, then separate groups. Indeed, between the Dulles brothers — Allen and Secretary of State John Foster — the entire conduct of American foreign policy, open and covert, was the province of one family in the post-war years. That control, and the tight ship run by Allen Dulles, so infuriated the chiefs of the other intelligence units that Dulles's successor, General Walter Bedell Smith, was chosen from among the dissaffected. At the same time, his position was redefined to take control over other agencies from him and his successors. Until now.

In a recent *Phoenix* interview, Turner diplomatically played down the idea that he controls other agency chiefs. "I'm really just the first among equals," he said, using the words he has repeated in virtually every interview over the previous 20 months. It's one of the admiral's favorite stock phrases; another is his description of the new, streamlined covert-operations division as "an

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